

Application No.: 10/780396

Case No.: 58967US002

REMARKS

Reexamination and reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

It is noted that the rejection based on U.S. Patent Nos. 3,991,534 and 3,522,637 have been withdrawn. The only outstanding rejections rely on US 3,922,455 with the claims either argued as being anticipated or rendered obvious in view of the teachings therein. As such, applicant's comments will be expanded relative to the disclosure of the '455 reference in view of the claims as previously and presently presented. Minor clarifying amendments have been made to the claims to further clarify the destination over the hook strands of the '455 reference. As previously pointed out the hook containing strands of the '455 reference really are not necessarily hook containing strands but rather are filaments which have adhesively grafted fibrils or scales. The description of these materials starts at page 2, column 2, line 66 which refers to linear elements 50 having physically bonded nibs 54. The linear members are described in the following column as being metal, plastic or glass or composites and can be in the form of wire or monofilaments. The elements are then adhesively coated and pass through a fluidized mass of nibs 54 as shown in figure 4. The adhesive coated filaments adhere to these particles or nibs. As such the construction of the linear members 52 or 50 would be a continuous filament or strand having an adhesive coating forming a junction between the strand and the attached nibs. There is an adhesive layer interface between the nibs and the linear members 52 or 50.

In contrast, the present invention is directed at integral hook strands. The hook strand has a thermoplastic base layer and integrally formed thermoplastic hook elements. There is no interface between the two. The claim has further been amended to clarify this indicating the base layer and the hook elements are both extrusion formed integrally. As the hook elements and the base layer are a continuous material formed by extrusion which would preclude an adhesive interface as is required by the adhesive coated linear members 52 of the '455 patent.

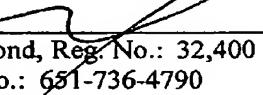
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In view of the above, further and favorable action is believed to be in order as such is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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